

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 175

By Moore

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Cecil D. Branstetter, Sr.,
for his laudable service to the people of
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Cecil D. Branstetter, Sr., who has lent his time and talents over the years to numerous community organizations and endeavors in the City of Nashville, which have greatly benefited the lives of every citizen of this wonderful community; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, Cecil Dewey Branstetter, the son of Miller Henry and Lillie Adams Branstetter, was born on December 15, 1920, in Morgan County, Tennessee, in the rural and scenic community of Deer Lodge; and

WHEREAS, carrying all his worldly possessions in a cigar box, young Mr. Branstetter left Deer Lodge at the age of eighteen after graduating from Sunbright High School to attend Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, becoming the first member of his family to attend college; and

WHEREAS, a tenacious and dedicated young man, Cecil Branstetter earned his tuition for three years at Lincoln Memorial University by working at the school's dairy, rising every morning at 3:00 a.m. to milk the cows before attending a full day of class and later returning to the dairy in the evening to milk the cows again; and

WHEREAS, proudly answering the call to duty during World War II, Mr. Branstetter served in the United States Army Corps of Engineers from 1943-46, seeing duty in Germany; he

would hold the rank of Lieutenant in the Adjutant General's Department of the U. S. Army Reserve from 1946-52; and

WHEREAS, it was on August 5, 1944, during his military service, that Cecil Branstetter would marry the love of his life who was then working at the Pentagon in Washington; Charlotte Coleman, the daughter of C.A. and Nora Hyatt Coleman of Harrogate, while a student at Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, during his military service in World War II, Cecil Branstetter won a competitive scholarship to Oxford University in Oxford, England, where he studied law before returning stateside to finish his last year of college, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Washington University in 1947; and

WHEREAS, pursuing a legal career, Mr. Branstetter was awarded the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Vanderbilt University in 1949; he won numerous accolades during this time in his studies, including election to Order of the Coif, which is reserved for the top 10% of the law school class, and service as the President of the Vanderbilt Bar Association, President of Delta Theta Phi legal fraternity, President of the Honor Council, and Editor of the Vanderbilt Law Review; and

WHEREAS, since attaining his law license in 1949, Cecil D. Branstetter, Sr., has established himself as one of the preeminent legal minds in the United States and has conducted an illustrious career as a lawyer for the past fifty-eight years; he won inclusion in the noted publication *The Best Lawyers in America*, a truly distinguished honor for any attorney, not only for excellence in one practice area but three - criminal defense, employment law, and personal injury litigation – an extremely rare accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, highly esteemed and respected by his peers for his keen insight and wisdom, Mr. Branstetter is a past President of the Junior section of the Tennessee Bar Association, a past Chairman of the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility, and a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation and the Tennessee Bar Foundation; and

WHEREAS, founder and partner of Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, PLLC, Cecil Branstetter is a member of the American, Tennessee, and Nashville Bar Associations, the

American and Tennessee Trial Lawyers Associations, and the American Jurisprudence Society;
and

WHEREAS, seeking to serve his fellow Tennesseans, Cecil Branstetter won election to the House of Representatives of the 77th Tennessee General Assembly in 1951; he capably represented the citizens of Davidson County, obtaining passage of the bill to allow women to serve on juries and the private act that essentially sparked the establishment of a metropolitan government for City of Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, a recognized leader in the efforts to unify Davidson County and the City of Nashville into one governmental entity, Cecil Branstetter served on the 1957 Charter Commission, the subsequent Charter Commission in 1961 which led to the successful passage of consolidated city-county government in 1962, and as the longtime chairman of the Metropolitan Government Charter Revision Commission; and

WHEREAS, a man of unlimited talents and skills, Mr. Branstetter has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Metropolitan Action Commission, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, the Davidson County Anti-Tuberculosis Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Council of Community Agencies, which he served as President; and

WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman, Mr. Branstetter is a past President and founder of the Tennessee Environmental Council, a past President of the Tennessee Conservation League, and former President of the Davidson County Sportsmen's Club; and

WHEREAS, Cecil Branstetter epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of sixty-two years, Charlotte Coleman Branstetter, and is the proud father of four devoted children, grandfather of ten beloved grandchildren, and great-grandfather of two treasured youngsters; and

WHEREAS, highly successful individuals like their father, Mr. Branstetter's adult children are Kay Branstetter Johnson, wife of Donald Johnson and a librarian at Harpeth Valley Elementary in Bellevue; Linda Branstetter Roach, wife of the late Dr. Ben Roach and an active community volunteer in Lexington, Kentucky; Jane Branstetter Stranch, wife of Jim Stranch and

an attorney with Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, PLLC; and Dewey Branstetter, husband of Julie Branstetter and practitioner of law in the firm founded by his father more than fifty years ago; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Cecil D. Branstetter, Sr., for his dedication to both his community and to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Cecil D. Branstetter, Sr., for his meritorious service to the people of Tennessee and living the examined life with courage and conviction as we extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.